whether Government have any assessment of the 25 years ts working; and

(d) whether the objectives and purposes for which it had been established have been ful-filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) The National Council for Safety in Mines was set up in July, 1963 as a tripartite organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to undertake, aid and promote safety education in mines. The establishment and the activities of the Council received financial support from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. With the transfer of the administration of the Fund from the Labour Ministry to the Department of Coal in 1981-82, a decision had to be taken on continuance of the Council, and its financing in the event of its continuance. An Expert Group was set up by the Government on 25th June, 1985 with the following terms of reference:

(A) Whether there is any justification for continuance of the National Council for Safety in Mines;

(B) If it has to continue, what should be its structure, role and functions, source of finance etc.

The Expert Group recommended that the continuance of the National Council for Safety in Mines was fully justified. The report was considered by Government. It was felt that safety was primarily a management function. A substantial programme on mines safety had, in fact, been taken on hand by Coal India Limited after the nationalisation of coal mines. The National Council for Safety in Mines had also not been able to devote its attention to the unorganised sector in mining, on account of lack of resources. It was, therefore, decided by the Government that the National Council for Safety in Mines should be wound up. In the organised sector, the management should themselves be made responsible for safety education. As regards unorganised sector, the Directorate General of Mines Safety should be given the responsibility and that the organisation of the Directorate General of Mines, Safety should be suitably strengthened for the purpose.

Classification of Hotels

1718. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hotels are classified as five star and so on keeping in view the interest of foreign tourists, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the interest of Indian tourists is not taken into consideration in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to classify the hotels keeping in view the interest of Indian tourists?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism have formed a Central Classification Committee which inspects and classifies the hotel under 3, 4, 5 and 5-star (deluxe) categories all over the country. The powers to classify 1 & 2-star hotels have been delegated to State Governments/UTs. The State Governments/UTs have, thereofre, constituted their own classification Committees and classify 1 and 2-star hotels in their region only. All categories of hotels are classified by the Central Classification Committee or State Governments/UTs in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Central Government. These guidelines keep in view the interest of all tourists—Indian or foreign.